THE KODO CODE

THIS JAPANESE DRUMMING TROUPE IS READY FOR A BRAND NEW BEAT PAGE 12

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PHILADELPHIA Monday, March 25, 2013
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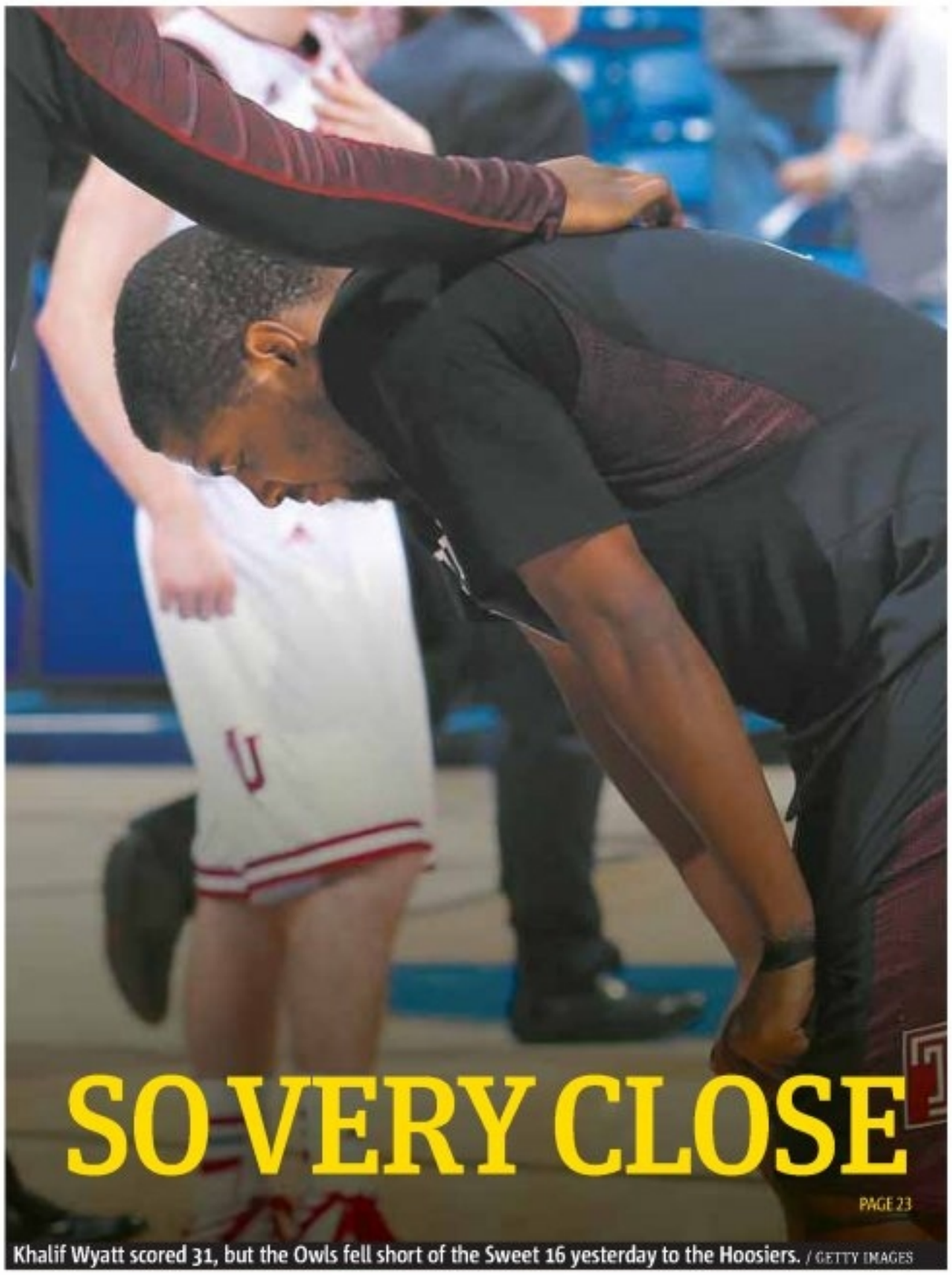

SO VERY CLOSE

PAGE 23

Khalif Wyatt scored 31, but the Owls fell short of the Sweet 16 yesterday to the Hoosiers. / GETTY IMAGES

Woman, 44, stabbed to death in Point Breeze

CRIME. Elaine Brooks was stabbed at home on Reed Street. One neighbor said Brooks, nicknamed 'Knockout,' was a 'good person' who didn't ask for anything. Brooks' body was found by her 21-year-old son. There are no suspects in custody yet, said police.

PAGE 02

'This is ... that dude from the company'

PAGE 19

Why kids think Rihanna is rude

PAGE 09

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NEWS

Welcome

Check us out!

Good morning, Philadelphia! We have a little Monday morning surprise in store for you today: As you can tell from the following pages, Metro has undergone a face-lift. We've refreshed our design to make it brighter while allowing for more room for in-depth reportage and viewpoints. Why? Because we're right there with you in the commuting trenches and want to make your morning trip into the office more colorful, interesting and fun. We hope you like it.

Neighbors seek answers in slaying

Crime. Elaine Brooks was fatally stabbed in her home on Reed Street. Police aren't sure when the crime occurred.

Forty-four-year-old Point Breeze woman Elaine Brooks had a pair of boxing gloves tattooed on her arm, according to neighbor Talib Salaam.

"She didn't take no mess," he said yesterday. "That's why they called her 'Knockout.'"

Brooks' life was cut short Friday after her 21-year-old son found her lifeless body on the living room floor of the home they shared.

She had been stabbed to death. "I heard her name on the news and I thought, 'No, it couldn't be,'" Salaam said.

Brooks' time of death is not yet known — some neighbors reportedly heard loud music blasting from the home for several days leading up to the discovery.

"One thing about her, she was a good person," Salaam said. "You don't meet too many people who just look out and don't ask for [anything]."

He said he last saw Brooks on Thursday or Friday, possibly mere hours before her death, when she bought him a meal.

"That's the kind of person she was," he said. "This is so sad. I already miss her."

Brooks' son, who neighbors said worked as an amateur tattoo artist, was taken in for questioning.

Police were yesterday unable to say whether he'd been released or if he is being treated as a suspect.

"I just hope they find the person or persons who killed her," Salaam said. "She didn't deserve this."

ALEX WIGGLESWORTH
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Happy birthday to the Academy of Natural Sciences!

Young visitors take in the Dall sheep exhibit at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University in Center City yesterday, where guests were treated to free admission to celebrate the museum's bicentennial. Attendants also took in The Academy at 200: The Nature of Discovery. Tyrannosaurus rex crafts, dinosaur-themed crime scene investigation and more rounded out the day. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Crime. Men critical in weekend shootings

Two men are in critical condition following two unrelated shootings Friday in Mill Creek and Point Breeze.

Officers found one victim, 24, shortly before 6:15 p.m. in a rear driveway on Parrish Street in Mill Creek. He had been shot once in the back of the head.

A 36-year-old man was shot multiple times Friday night near 22nd and Wharton streets in Point Breeze.

Police said the victim, 36, was found around 11:10 p.m. He had been shot three times in the head and once each in the back and shoulder.

METRO

Correction

The article titled "No more walks in the park for you and your friend Colt" March 22-24 edition incorrectly stated that City Councilman Brian O'Neill voted against banning firearms in city parks and recreation centers. Councilman Dennis O'Brien cast the second "no" vote.

Metro regrets the error.

Crime. Girlfriend arrested in stabbing

Police have arrested the live-in girlfriend of 59-year-old Peter Miles, who was fatally stabbed Friday morning inside his home on the 5300 block of Poplar Street.

Carolyn Harris, 37, was taken into custody and is charged with murder and weapons offenses.

Investigators believe a domestic dispute led to the slaying. Harris is already on probation after pleading guilty last year to controlled substance possession.

Miles' 38-year-old stepson discovered his body shortly after 9 a.m. Friday during a welfare check.

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Siblings' chili is people's tasty choice

Food. Fishtown's Neighborhood Association held its annual chili cook-off Sunday. Sketch Burger and Bubba's tied.

Greg and Theresa Decker took home a top prize. / RIKARD LARMA

Last year, siblings Greg and Theresa Decker used a family recipe to clean up at the Fishtown Chili Cookoff. This year, they kept the "Double Decker" name, but went with an Asian flavor.

"We told our mom about our idea and she said, 'sounds good to me,'" Greg said.

The two won the people's and critic's choice for best amateur chili in the third annual Fishtown Neighborhood Association cook-off.

Hundreds tasted the recipes of 15 Fishtown residents and 10 restaurants. As the eaters moved from table to table, they voted for the best professional and amateur chili as judges choose theirs.

The people's choice for best restaurant chili was Bubba's Texas BBQ. Critics' choice for best restaurant was Sketch Burger.

Jill Betters, who runs the event, said voting closes when the chili's gone.

"After a couple of years doing this, it's less science, more art," she said.

TOMMY ROWAN
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Hot under the collar for the Phillies

Libby, left, and Suzie, right, two Bijon/shih-tzu mixes, are dressed up in their Phillies gear at the Pup Rally, an event sponsored by the SPCA at the Schuylkill River Park in Philadelphia yesterday afternoon. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Lottery

$338M Powerball ticket sold in NJ

A yet-to-be-revealed New Jersey store sold the winning $338.3 million Powerball Jackpot ticket, said lottery officials. The earnings total about $211 million. METRO

Crime

BB gun shooting

A 34-year-old man shot at a teenage boy as he rode his dirt bike through a Port Richmond playground, officials said.

Police arrested the Port Richmond man for allegedly shooting the 16-year-old with a pellet gun Friday night. METRO

Government

PHA cuts 82 jobs

The Philadelphia Housing Authority laid off 82 employees last week due to federally mandated spending cuts, saving nearly $7.2 million. The Housing Authority receives 90 percent federal funding. They face $32 million in cuts. METRO

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‘Smash’ creator brings play to PTC

Arts. Pulitzer nominee Theresa Rebeck brings her Broadway play to Philadelphia.

Theresa Rebeck, Pulitzer Prize nominee and creator of TV show “Smash,” brings her play “Seminar” to the Philadelphia Theatre Company through April 14.

“Seminar” is about four aspiring writers who paid $5,000 each to take a writing seminar given by a famous author.

Rebeck considers “Seminar” one of her most “precious” plays.

Rebeck encourages all aspiring writers to “create their own opportunity” by self-producing.

“I am not sure that art and corporate logic fit together,” she said.

Rebeck’s distaste for the studio system may stem from her very public firing as executive producer from “Smash.”

“The show is good. [Star] Anjelica Huston told me last week the show is not broken. It was going to hit its stride in the second season.”

She attributed her firing to “panicking by NBC executives” and “gender issues.”

“There were 10 guys and me,” she said.

LAURA GOLDMAN
letters@metro.us

Drink up with the cast of “Seminar.” / MARK GARVIN

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Opinion

JOHN BOLARIS
BOLARIS VISION

SHOULD HE MOVE IN?

My partner and I have been dating long-distance for two and a half years. I’m graduating at the end of the year and I want to move in with him. He says he’s not ready to move in together. Should I give him more time, or should I move on? — Kayla, 29

It’s interesting that you said “my partner and I have been dating for two and a half years.”

Let’s break this down.

Partner, by definition, is a person who takes part in an understanding with another or others, especially in a business or company with shared risks and profits.

Quote

“You’re young [and] educated, and [you] have a bright future ahead. Do not guilt your man/partner into something he is not ready for.”

Dating, by definition, is a form of courtship consisting of social activities done by two people with the aim of each assessing the other’s suitability as a partner in an intimate relationship or as a spouse.

Just by your opening sentence, you never said you were in a relationship or “my boyfriend.” So with this in mind I will assume you both are “allowed” to see other people.

Through my years of dating, I find this usually turns out to be a relationship train wreck. A woman thinks of a date as a kiss good night, “thanks for chow” and “let me call my man.”

The man, on the other hand, has this emotional detachment. He thinks, “I’m allowed to date, so I’m not doing anything wrong here” — even if his bedroom turns into the chariots of fire.

You’re graduating in a few months, it’s been two and a half years, it’s long-distance and your partner said he’s not ready. You’re young [and] educated, and [you] have a bright future ahead. Do not guilt your man/partner into doing something he is not ready for.

Thank him for his honesty and, you never know, he might have done you a big favor.

Two and a half years seems long enough time.

Survey finds readers can't identify Dickens

Literature. Fewer than 50 percent could decipher him from the "worst writer in history."

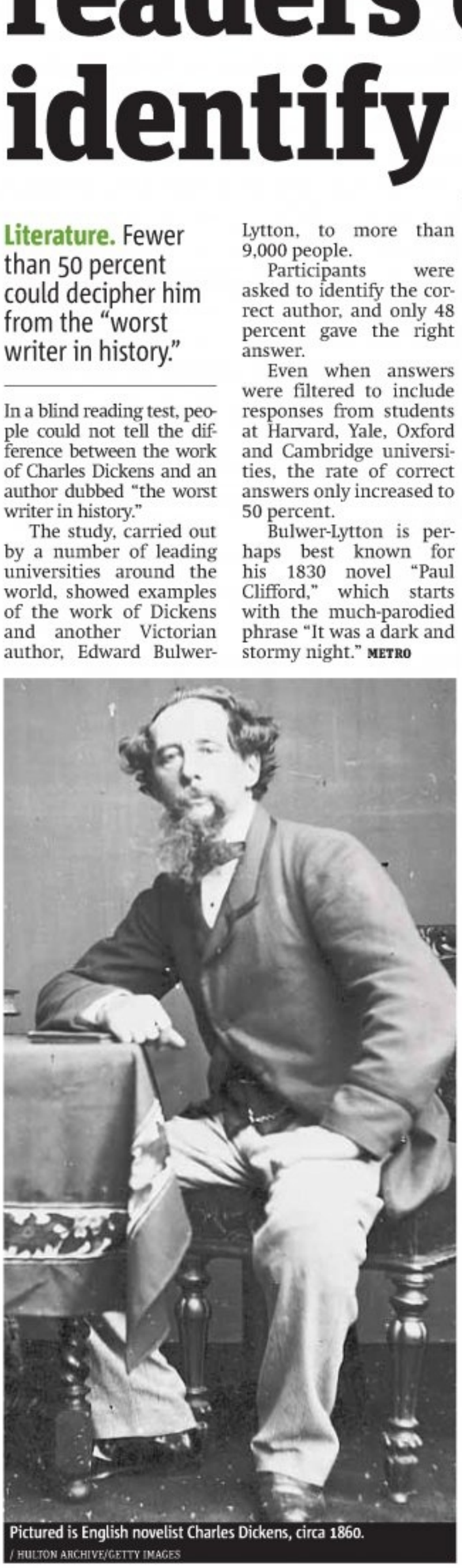
In a blind reading test, people could not tell the difference between the work of Charles Dickens and an author dubbed "the worst writer in history."

The study, carried out by a number of leading universities around the world, showed examples of the work of Dickens and another Victorian author, Edward Bulwer-Lytton, to more than 9,000 people.

Participants were asked to identify the correct author, and only 48 percent gave the right answer.

Even when answers were filtered to include responses from students at Harvard, Yale, Oxford and Cambridge universities, the rate of correct answers only increased to 50 percent.

Bulwer-Lytton is perhaps best known for his 1830 novel "Paul Clifford," which starts with the much-parodied phrase "It was a dark and stormy night." METRO



Pictured is English novelist Charles Dickens, circa 1860.
/ HULTON ARCHIVE/GETTY IMAGES

Divide the work

Study: Sharing chores equals a happy marriage

Fathers who have a happy relationship with their children and who do their fair share of housework have the happiest marriages, a new American study has found.
METRO

Too much salt risk

Harvard: Fifteen percent of deaths due to high salt

Harvard scientists told the American Heart Association that 15 percent of all deaths from heart attack and stroke around the world in 2010 were caused by excessive salt in the diet.
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World. John Kerry asks Iraq to stop flights carrying arms to Syria

Secretary of State John Kerry said that he had told Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki that Iranian flights carrying arms to Syria through Iraqi airspace were "problematic" during an unannounced visit to Iraq yesterday.

"Anything that supports President Assad is problematic," Kerry said.

"I made it very clear to the prime minister that the overflights from Iran ... are in fact helping to sustain President Assad and his regime," Kerry added.

Kerry also informed that President Obama felt that his talks with Israeli and Palestinian officials were the most positive he had accomplished to date.

REUTERS

Return from exile

Musharraf returns to Pakistan

Pakistan's former President, Pervez Musharraf, returned home after nearly four years of self-imposed exile to contest elections despite possibility of arrest and death threats. REUTERS

Alkhatib resigns

Syrian opposition head quits

Moaz Alkhatib, the head of Syria's main opposition group, resigned, weakening the moderate wing of the two-year revolt against President Bashar al-Assad's rule.

REUTERS

Obamacare's anniversary marked by lobbying surge

Staffers for Sen. Orrin Hatch and Sen. Mitch McConnell move a huge stack of papers used as a prop in a press conference on the repeal of Obamacare. / DOUGLAS GRAHAM/CQ ROLL CALL/GETTY IMAGES

Politics. Groups are ramping up lobbying for an 11th-hour assault.

Medical device makers, health insurers, retailers and restaurants are waging what lobbyists call a coordinated effort to gain Senate Democratic support for overturning $130 billion in taxes that will be used to fund the new law, and repealing a mandate requiring employers to provide insurance coverage for full-time workers or pay a fine.

The campaign is backed by two of the business world's lobbying powerhouses: U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Federation of Independent Business. The latter had a leading role in 2012's failed attempt to overturn the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act in the Supreme Court.

Known as Obamacare, the 2010 law will bring sweeping change to the $2.8 trillion U.S. health care industry starting Jan. 1, 2014, including bringing health insurance to millions more Americans.

Lobbyists are gearing up for a battle against the law's costs that is likely to intensify as lawmakers shift attention to the 2014 congressional elections and the campaign donations they may need.

Those who oppose the law have joined industry letter-writing campaigns.

REUTERS

Quoted

"It's going to be a difficult battle [over] the administration's signature law."

Amanda Austin
NFIB's federal public policy director

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THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson's take on the world of gossip.

DOROTHY ROBINSON
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1 My Chemical Romance's love affair is over

The love affair between members of My Chemical Romance is over. The emo band announced on their website on Friday that they were disbanding after 12 years.

In a statement, they said being in the band "has been a true blessing" that allowed them "to see and experience things we never imagined possible." "We've shared the stage with people we admire, people we look up to and, best of all, our friends. And now, like all great things, it has come time for it to end." We weep over their Hot Topic-purchased coffin.

2 Williams 'wigs out' about new line

There is no shame in Wendy Williams' weave game — the talk show host has been wearing wigs for the past 12 years, after being was diagnosed with hyperthyroidism.

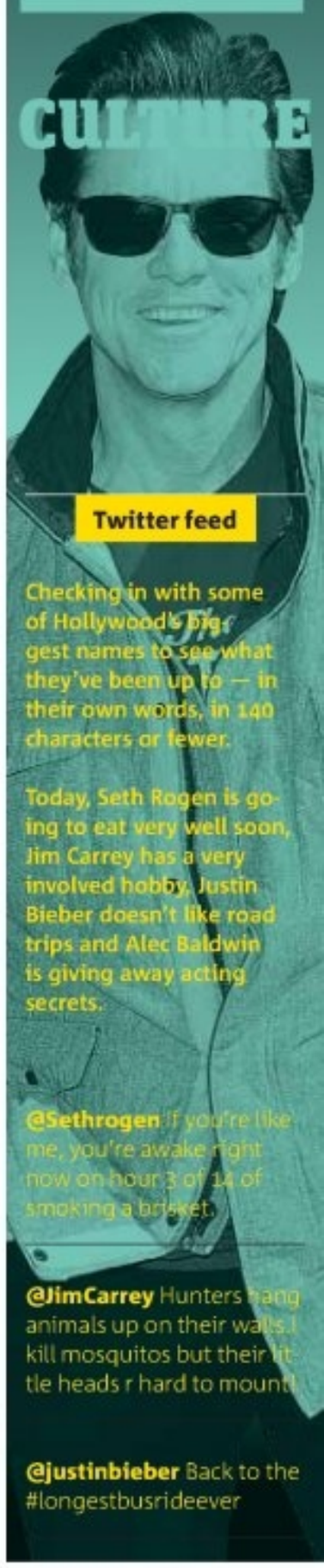
And now the Wendy Williams Hair World wig line debuts in June. In a recent interview with Metro, she says the wig line will have "everything respectful that wiggies want and that newbies can get used to" and that she's out to disprove the idea that wigs are "old and tired and ridiculous."

"You don't necessarily expect a fly girl turning 50 — that'd be me — wearing a wig," she says. How you doin', indeed.

3 Rihanna keeps kids waiting

According to the Chicago Tribune, Rihanna kept 2,000 school children in Chicago waiting for more than three hours on Thursday. The pop star was to be there at 1 p.m. (the students gathered at noon) but Rihanna didn't stroll in until after 5 p.m. and left after 16 minutes. I will let the wise words of junior Patricia Halle close it out: "It's one thing to be fashionably late. This is just rude. Our lives don't revolve around a pop star."

4 CULTURE



Twitter feed

Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Seth Rogen is going to eat very well soon, Jim Carrey has a very involved hobby, Justin Bieber doesn't like road trips and Alec Baldwin is giving away acting secrets.

@Sethrogen If you're like me, you're awake right now on hour 3 of 14 of smoking a brisket.

@JimCarrey Hunters hang animals up on their walls.I kill mosquitos but their little heads r hard to mount!

@justinbieber Back to the #longestbusrideever

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Stars got slimed Saturday

1 Kids love Johnny Depp

The actor won the Kids' Choice Award for Favorite Movie Actor at Nickelodeon's 26th annual soiree. Depp said he was "truly honored and humbled. Thank you for what you are, which is the future."

2 Ke$ha made them scream

The singer performed along with Christina Aguilera and Pitbull.

3 (Award) two-timer

Kristen Stewart won for Favorite Movie Actress and Female Butt-Kicker. She also smiled. All of these things are surprising!

4 Perry: How sweet it is

Katy Perry was shocked when she won for Favorite Female Singer. "Stay safe, stay in school, don't do drugs," she told the crowd.

5 Duhamel's 'slime dunk'

Josh Duhamel wore two hats for Saturday's award show: host and slimy green sumo wrestler.

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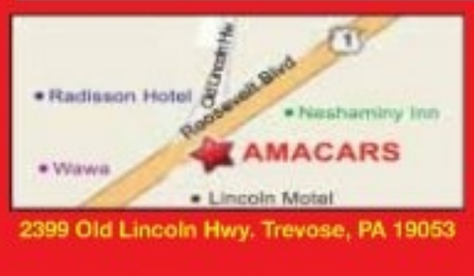

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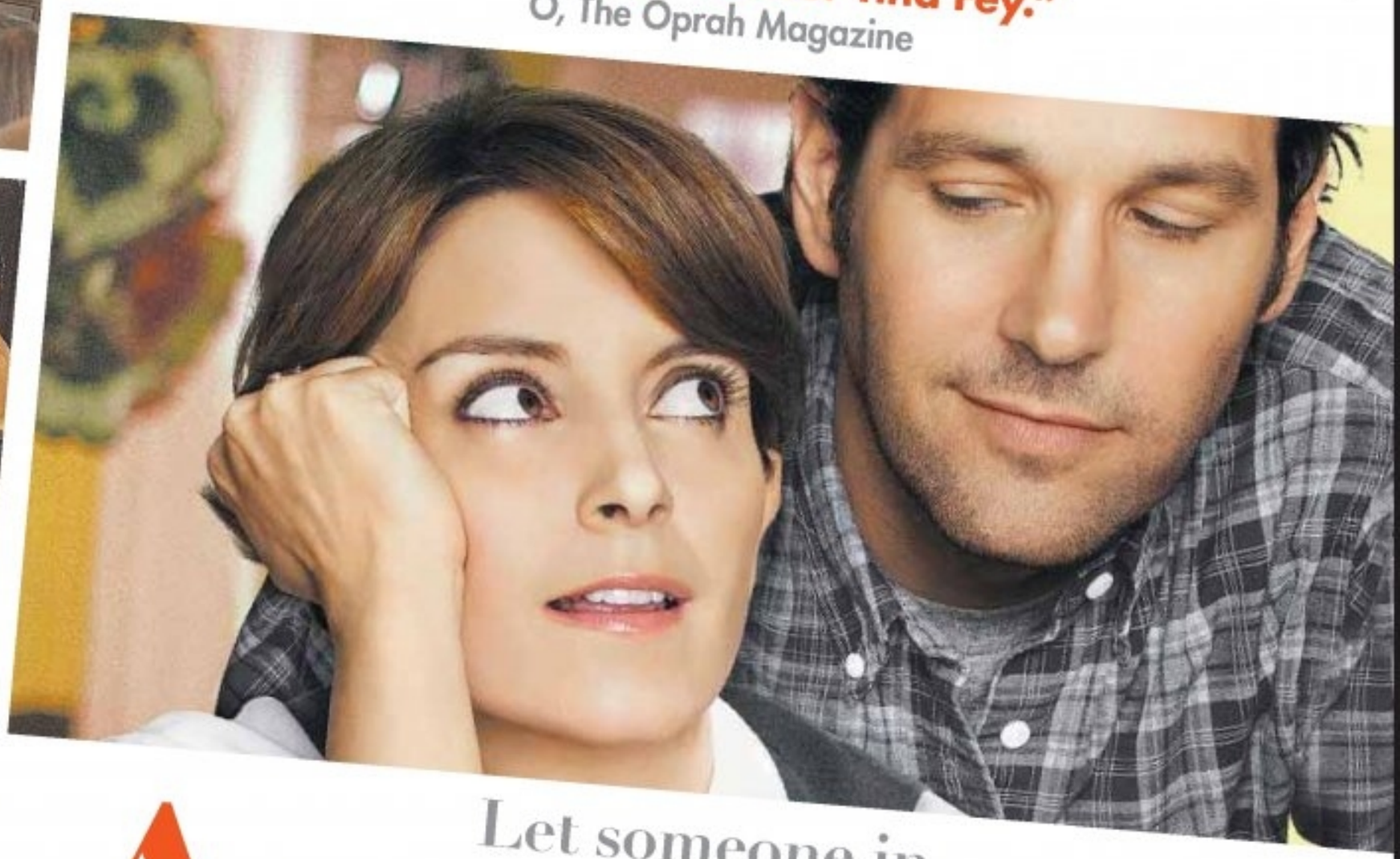
O, The Oprah Magazine



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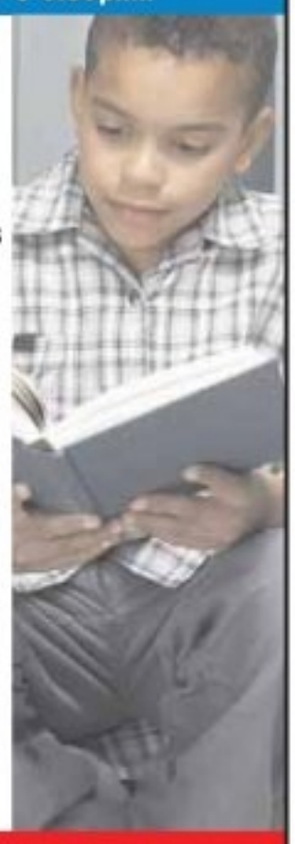

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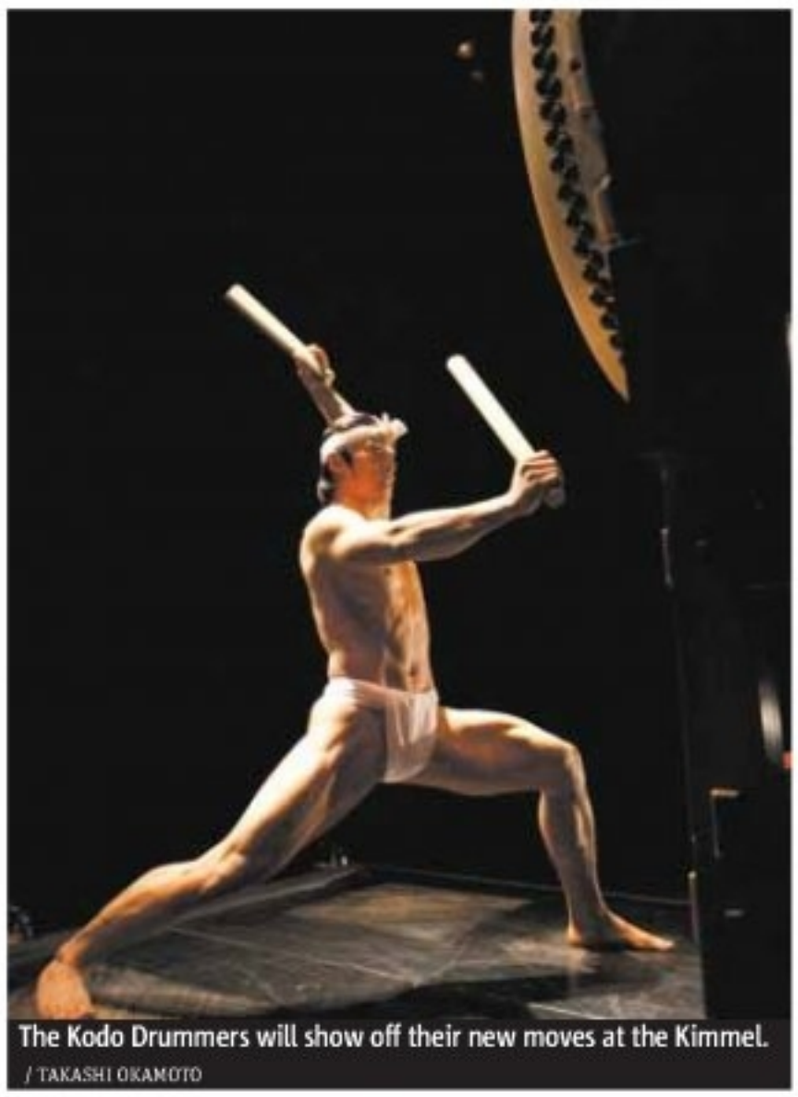
The Kodo Drummers are banging out a new beat



The Kodo Drummers will show off their new moves at the Kimmel. / TAKASHI OKAMOTO

Music. Japanese traveling troupe gets a fresh update from a Kabuki star.

Meet the new Kodo Drummers.

They're not exactly the same as the old Kodo Drummers.

The Japanese music troupe has undergone some subtle — and some perhaps not-so-subtle — changes since new artistic director Tamasaburo Bando came aboard in 2011.

"He's been really keen on brushing up our musical heritage, in addition to giving us a different perspective with choreography and acting," says troupe manager Jun Akimoto. "Musically, I think we have changed in a variety of ways — but we've also developed our visual aspects with costumes, lighting and set changes."

The troupe, founded more than 30 years ago, is based on Sado Island in the Sea of Japan. Its performances are a rhythmic and athletic exhibition of drumming on the taiko, the traditional Japanese drum. There's also dancing, miming and making music with a variety of other instruments, including the bamboo xylophone, gong, wooden clacker and bamboo flute.

The shows defy easy categorization: part music, part ballet and part theater.

Bando, a Kabuki actor with rock-star popularity in Japan, came in and gave the group a tune-up — especially important now that Kodo is no longer the only touring taiko troupe.

"For the radical changes, we had to have someone from the outside," says Akimoto about Bando. "Tamasaburo was the right person for the job. His vision was very clear-cut. His direction is straightforward and he can be very strict, but at the same time he's very warmhearted. We had a relationship with him for the last 12 years before we officially asked him to become our artistic director."

The main goal of their performances, says Akimoto, is "to elevate."

"The next step is musical fertility," he says. "It's ongoing and it might take 10, 20, 50, 100 years."

That's a lot of drumming. And it's hard work, Akimoto says. "I was a violinist before I joined [Kodo in a non-performing role]. I wasn't interested in being a Japanese drummer. It's much too physical for me."

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Ryan Reynolds and Emma Stone voice prehistoric youngsters in "The Croods," this weekend's box office champ. / AP

'The Croods' has the goods

Box office. The animated prehistoric film topped 'Olympus,' while far fewer saw 'Spring Breakers.'

Animated prehistoric adventure "The Croods," about a family of cave-dwellers fighting for survival, claimed the movie box office charts with $44.7 million from weekend ticket sales in North America.

"Croods" dethroned two-time box office champ "Oz the Great and Powerful," which slipped to third place. Walt Disney Co.'s Sam Raimi-directed prequel to "The Wizard of Oz" earned $22 million in its third weekend, per studio estimates.

In between the two family films, thriller "Olympus Has Fallen," about a White House under terrorist attack, took in $30.5 million at North American theaters.

Raunchy adult comedy "Spring Breakers," which racked up big sales a week ago in just three venues, expanded into 1,100 theaters and took the sixth spot with $5 million.

"Admission," a comedy starring Tina Fey and Paul Rudd, grossed $6.4 million and took fifth place.

REUTERS

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Off-Beat

KStew, center, and Garrett Hedlund (with Sam Riley in the back) star in "On the Road." / GREGORY SMITH

Cinema. "On the Road," which took decades to make, turns a nearly unfilmable novel into a movie that could have been worse.

Conceptually speaking, wanting to make a movie out of "On the Road" — or anything by Jack Kerouac, for the matter — is to miss the point. Its pleasures are purely (or at least mostly) literary: the drive and playfulness of the cascading Beat prose, itself as free and infused with wanderlust as the characters within. Regardless, film versions have been in the works since 1957, when Kerouac himself wanted Marlon Brando to play Dean Moriarty, with the author himself cast as his own stand-in, Sal Paradise. The one that was made isn't that bad, actually, and not just for a film that never needed to exist.

Sam Riley, the mousy Ian Curtis of "Control," plays Sal, our audience surrogate. He's bland, as tabula rasas (evidently) must be. But that's mostly OK as Dean is played, in what should be a star-making role, with charismatic swagger by Garrett Hedlund, who himself did boring surrogate job duty in "Tron: Legacy." The two spend their days zooming around the country, hitting up the accomplished all-star supporting cast, from Viggo Mortensen's Old Bull Lee (read: William S. Burroughs) to Kristen Stewart's disappearing-reappearing Marylou. Stewart is a sometimes actual actress, but her biggest accomplishment — apart from an unprintable act already screen-grabbed by the Internet — is not being enough of a presence to prove distracting.

Thirteen minutes have been snipped since "On the Road"'s Cannes debut, and the film's most admirable trait — after Hedlund — is its speed. The thing moves: The scenes are short, afraid to stick in one spot for too long and afraid to bore the audience with potentially toxic Beat-ness. It's not an equivalent to Kerouac's prose, but neither is it a generic celebration of a life lived recklessly. The perspective is Sal's, reflecting on a wasted youth he's glad he outgrew but misses anyway, struggling with a strand of survivor's guilt for making it out alive. But even with the ideal Dean, this is still mostly defensible because it could have been worse.

Review

Name. 'On the Road'

Director. Walter Salles

Stars. Sam Riley, Garrett Hedlund

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DARE TO COMPARE? THAT'S JUST UNFAIR

Comparing is a nasty habit. When we compare ourselves to others, we get hooked into the belief that we're better than or less than someone else. Comparing creates animosity, resentment, jealousy and competition. Living with this attitude can be detrimental to your happiness and overall sense of peace. How can you be peaceful when you're constantly comparing yourself?

Quoted

"Once you're aware of your comparing habit, the next step is to take action."

Underneath the desire to compare is a deep-rooted sense that we are not enough. When we feel an unconscious sense of lack, we project that lack onto others so feel incomplete. Understanding this pattern is the first step toward transforming it.

Feeling bad about yourself might lead to projecting that negativity on to another — but that won't make you feel any better in the long run. / GETTY IMAGES/IMAGE SOURCE

Once you're aware of your comparing habit, the next step is to take action toward changing the behavior. The moment you witness yourself compare, simply say, "The light I see in them is a reflection of my inner light." Even if you don't believe this affirmation or if you think it's too New Age-y, just try it. The action of perceiving oneness in the moment can release you of the need to compare. Even for an instant you can be set free. That is a miracle.

So, to recap: Step One is to witness how you compare yourself to others. Become familiar with the behavior so you can recognize it when it comes on. Then Step Two is to shift the behavior in an instant with this affirmation: "The light I see in them is a reflection of my inner light."

Your shifts may be subtle at first, but you'll feel relief. Set yourself free from the cycle and be at peace with who you are.

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Blogging all the way to the bank: Is it your passion?

If only there were a key on you keyboard that could make it rain. / GETTY IMAGES/ZOONAR RF

Money. Make sure you're taking the right steps to make money from the blog you love so dearly.

There's no get-rich-quick scheme when it comes to blogging. Creating a website, building an audience and eventually garnering revenue is an exhausting process — which is why most successful blogs are labors of love. A good blog stems from an unwavering desire to do the thing you most enjoy and share it with the world.

Lauren Lilling had a degree in finance, but Wall Street just wasn't cutting it for her. A year after starting her blog, Keep It Sweet Desserts, Lilling left the world of finance and devoted her time to a new business: a blog and "e-bakery" where users can order treats like her seasonally appropriate "Matzo-crack" salted chocolate matzo.

Like any savvy business owner, Lilling drew on what she knew. "As someone who worked in finance prior to starting a business, I was able to use skills from my previous career, leverage the social media buildup I had from blogging and build on the relationships in both places," she says.

Babette Pepaj runs TECHmunch, a conference for food bloggers to help them do what Lilling has done. Pepaj travels around the U.S. to help food bloggers make their work more financially rewarding, she says.

"The unsuccessful bloggers I've seen are the ones who are short-term planners," says Pepaj. Most important, she says, is keeping the blog active to attract interest from advertisers: "You can't expect a brand to look at your blog that hasn't been updated in four weeks and think your community is engaged," she says.

Advice

Tips for making a blog into a career:

- **Have a clear focus.** In this case, casting a wider net will not necessarily get you a wider audience.
- **Be patient, but be persistent.** The money isn't going to come rolling in, but regular posting and diligence will certainly help.
- **Use social media.** Utilize different platforms in order to promote your brand and drive traffic to your site.

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Office Manager – A health care company in Wilmington is currently seeking an Office Manager for their operations. This position will manage overall office administration, which may include copy services, word processing, mail and distribution services, office reception, office equipment, utility services and communication systems. Additional responsibilities for the Office Manager will include evaluating office production, assisting in developing and revising office policies and procedure for staff. If you have received a Bachelor degree or higher in Business, have the ability to lead, and are interested in a supervisory position, please apply today!

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Dave Stewart gets a little feline help while running his eBay business. / PROVIDED

The power of one plus the Net

Jobs. Could a garage of old car parts become a business? For Dave Stewart, it did.

In 2008 Dave Stewart was laid off from his maintenance tech position at a Pennsylvania nursing home. The news came as a shock and, as a result, he decided to take his career in a radically different direction.

Stewart is now one of a select few Americans that make their living through eBay. (The company claims 1.3 million sellers worldwide, but experts believe the number of individual, primary-income eBay-ers to be much smaller.)

"I no longer wanted to be dependent on someone else providing me with paycheck, because I saw that you couldn't rely on it as much as I did," says Stewart, from his home in Bucks County, Pa. "I wanted to be self-employed, but wasn't quite sure how to get there."

Inspiration struck, along with a bit of luck: He discovered a stockpile of obsolete car parts in his grandfather's cavernous garage. While his family was skeptical, Stewart was convinced there was a market for outdated parts.

"It started out as an experiment — just a few parts on the [eBay] page. They really sold fast, and I had an inkling I was on to something," says Stewart "Pretty soon, I had an eBay store, and I couldn't keep up with the orders."

Stewart's success wasn't based on luck alone. He operates his business with the systematic, detailed approach you'd expect in a much larger operation. Every one of the 1,600 items in his eBay store is researched thoroughly and displayed with precise photos and descriptions. These days, car parts represent less than half of the items in his store.

"To be successful on eBay, you have to be a salesman. It's like other sales jobs: If you're good at it, you can make a living — but only if you're good," says Stewart. "It's all about keeping people's interest with new merchandise. You can't just let it sit there and expect to make something."

BRUCE WALSH
bruce.walsh@metro.us

Q&A

eBay is still quite remarkable

PAUL PAVLOU, *professor of management and information systems at Temple University*

How has the eBay game changed in the past five years?
A lot has changed — some that's good for the individual, and some that isn't. eBay has attempted to attract much larger sellers, and they have adjusted their model somewhat because of that. However, it's a larger platform now, and the access to the market, logistics and infrastructure is still quite remarkable for the individual.

What sells best on eBay right now?
We've seen a trend toward used cars and products for used cars. eBay Motors is now one of the most popular platforms.

A recipe for name recall: You can do better than 'What's your name again?'

Blanking on names is bad form at work. You can do better.

/ GETTY IMAGES/EYECANDY IMAGES RF

Jobs. These tips can help avoid that awkward moment

"Old-what's-her-name" and "that guy" just isn't going to cut it with your colleagues. Learning people's names is not only good manners, but also good business practice, creating stronger networking connections and working relationships. Here are some tips to win the office name game:

Don't cop out

Instead of starting every meeting with "I'm sorry, I'm terrible at names," really focus when people introduce themselves. It may seem like you're giving them fair warning for your future forgetfulness, but accepting that names just won't stick is an easy out. Give yourself more credit and stop relying on your one-liner.

Advice

Paper trail

When you get a chance, write people's names and characteristics down. Just like when you write out your science notes 535 times trying to study for an exam, the actual act of scribbling down someone's name will help to store it in your brain folds. Additionally, these records will serve as a solid backup in the event that you draw a blank. Your memory may fade, but your records won't.

Repeat it

Many people forget names as soon as they hear them. To avoid this, when someone introduces themselves, use their name in your response. A simple "Nice to meet you, Jim" or "Hello, Sally" will help you remember who they are and makes for a more personal reply.

Ask about it

If someone has a particularly difficult name, ask them about it. Finding out a bit about them, their background, and how they ended up as "Maddox" or "Apple" will not only help you get to know them better, but will also make their name more than just a few letters jumbled together.

Association

If you can't remember if your desk mate is a Jessica or a Jocelyn, then it might be time for some memory tricks. Associate the person's name with something about them. Jack is the guy who went on a cruise. Christine is the super tall blond. Alternatively, you can try associating them with something that is familiar to you. Maybe Laura looks like your sister or Charles reminds you of your old professor.

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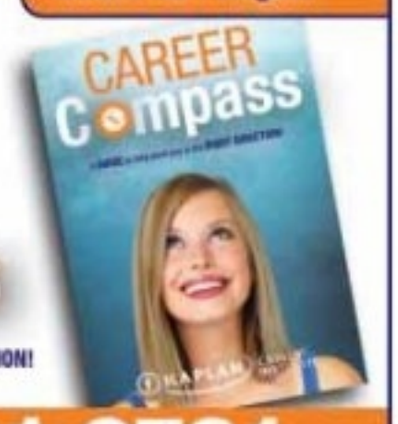

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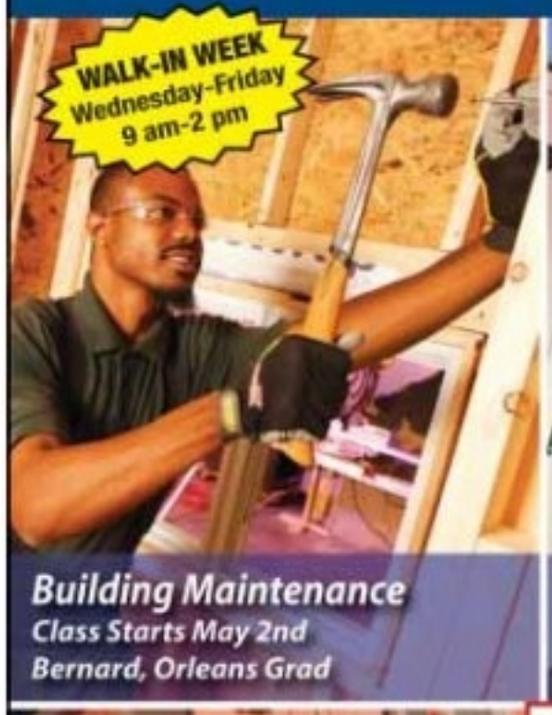

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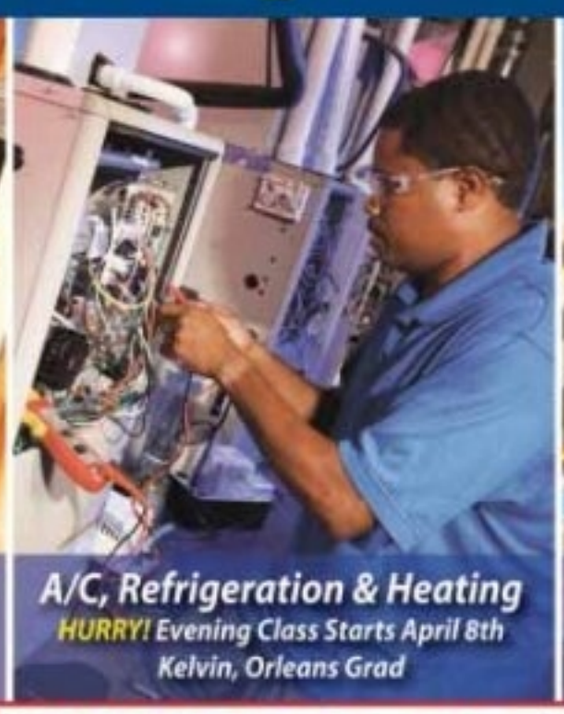
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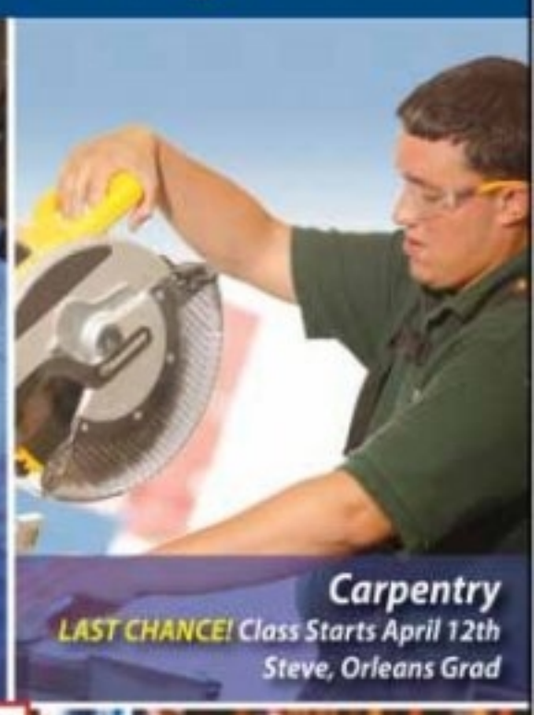
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In a high-tech economy, STEM education is vital to success. / GETTY IMAGES/FUSE

Stepping up the STEM: Change in US schools

Education. Professor David Drew says STEM teaching needs to be reformed.

In a high-tech global economy, few people dispute the need for Americans to excel in fields that will help them compete in the world market. In "STEM the Tide: Reforming Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Education in America," Claremont graduate professor of education Dr. David E. Drew tells us why the U.S. underperforms in these critical areas and suggests ways to get back on track.

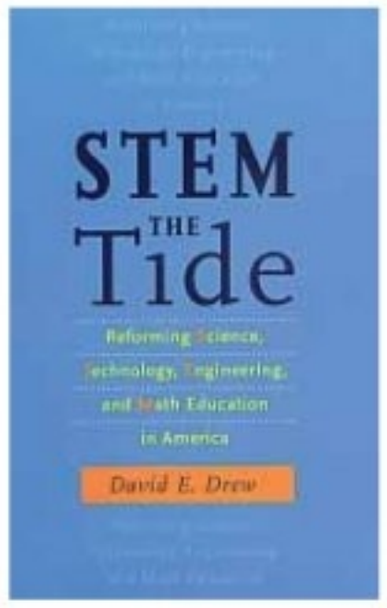
Why does America perform poorly in STEM education?

The main reason is that we don't support or respect our teachers as much as other countries do. In countries that outperform ours, being a teacher is a higher-status job. They have much more professional development, and they're paid more. Fifty years ago, our underperformance didn't matter that much. Now, we have a high-tech information economy, so you need different kinds of skills. You're competing not only against the person from the next town, but with people around the world.

What are our strengths?

Ironically, even though we have a weak K-12 system, we have one of the strongest higher education systems in the world. In the U.S., we believe in giving people second and third chances. Many countries have rigid structures where you take a test before you're 18 and they tell you what you'll be doing when you're 45. Our system is more consistent with human nature.

David Drew / TOM ZASADZINSKI



How can we change the way we think about STEM achievement?

Other countries teach these subjects to everybody, and they succeed. Let me give you a metaphor: Every parent looks forward to the day their newborn will one day learn language. It is a complex cognitive task, but every person in our society does it. That's how we should be looking at STEM education.

NATALIE SHURE
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Blog U writers are sometimes already established, independent bloggers; others are scholars that the site persuades to blog for the first time.

What education has to say online

On the Web. Inside Higher Ed's Blog U has quickly become a national hub for commentary on higher education.

When Inside Higher Ed kicked off in 2004, the founders had a collective impulse to foster some of the best Higher Education blogs on the Web.

Now, by taking in content from across the Web, Inside Higher Ed's Blog U has become one of two major hubs for higher ed blogs in the U.S. "To me, what we're creating is a bunch of micro-communities within our larger community," says Scott Jaschik, one of the founders of Inside Higher Ed.

Quoted

"For me, it's an opportunity to think aloud about issues I'm dealing with and get feedback around the [U.S.]. It helps me see around corners in my own thought. I think of it as crowd-sourced mentoring."

Matthew Reed
Author of the "Confessions of a Community College Dean," a popular blog on Inside Higher Ed

"Blogs are just a lot more personal than a lot of news stories, so it's a different way to connect with people." Currently, their featured blogs cover issues ranging from technology in the classroom to feminism on campus.

"By and large, the bloggers have complete editorial freedom. They can criticize us; they can write about what they want," says Jaschik. "These are tough issues they're writing about. I don't expect every reader to love every piece. My whole goal is to give people good things to think about."

Inside Higher Ed has 22 education blogs featured on the site.

Scott Jaschik is a co-founder of Inside Higher Ed, a website devoted to news and job postings. / PROVIDED

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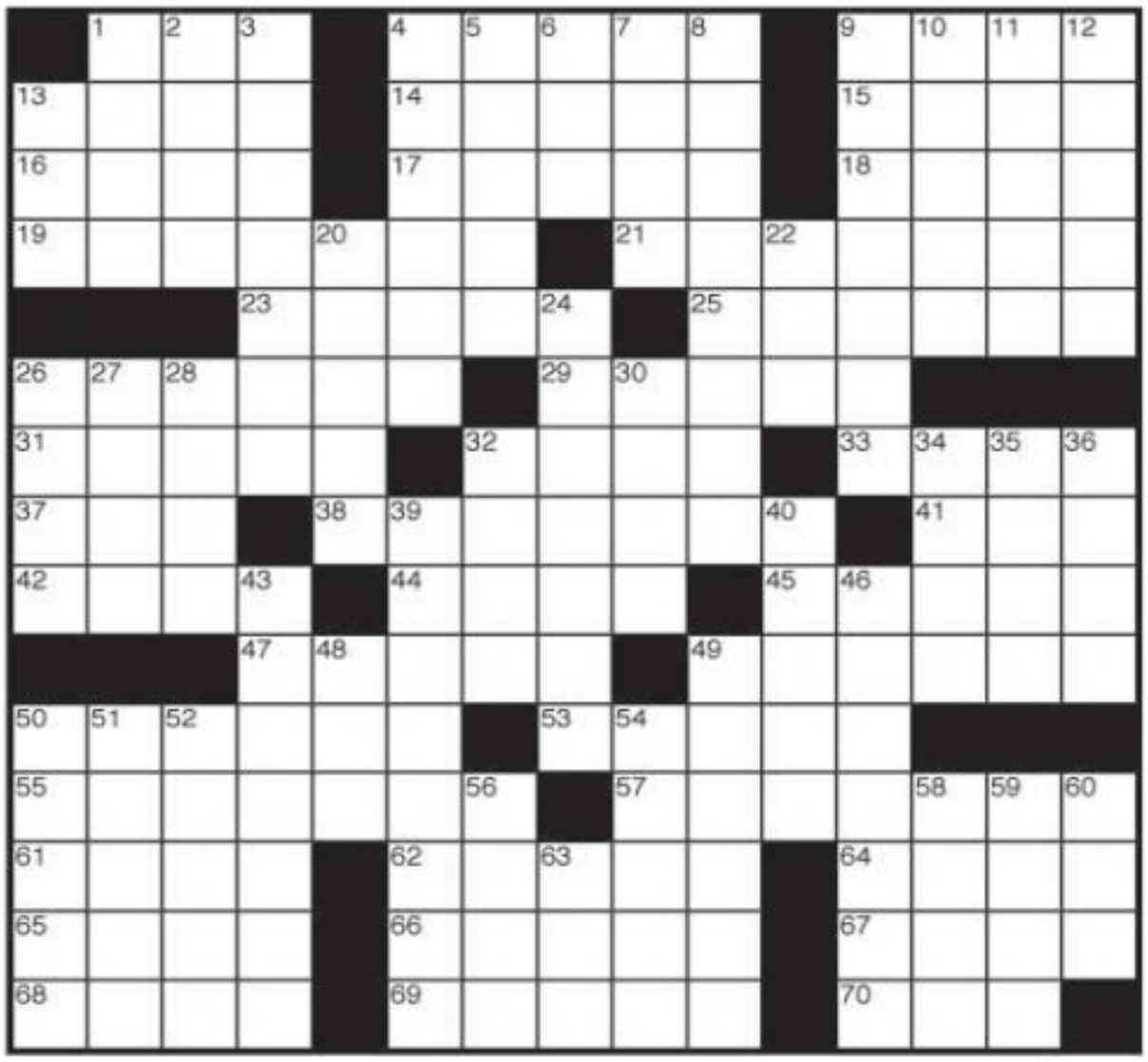

Across
1 Marsupial pocket
4 Lightly moisten
9 Actor -- Everett
13 Jupiter's wife
14 Fine violin
15 Not prompt
16 Et — (and others)
17 Familiar episode
18 Limerick locale
19 Relief pitchers
21 Formed thoughts
23 Loses hair
25 Multiplex offerings
26 Truth
29 Add one's 2 cents
31 Boadicea's people
32 Knot on a tree
33 Forum site
37 Electrical unit
38 Having luck (3 wds.)
41 Decorative scallop
42 Tower over
44 Retired
45 Buddhist king of India var.)
47 Rap sheet info 49 Looked hard
50 Kind of year
53 Connection (hyph.)
55 Cattleyas
57 Having a lease
61 Steakhouse order
62 — and aahed
64 Maintain
65 Future MD's course
66 Complain
67 Misgivings
68 "Holy cow!"
69 Snooped
70 Sixth sense

Down
1. Kirk's helmsman
2 Indigo plant
3 Fuel container
4 By a whisker
5 Revise
6 — es Salaam
7 Needle case
8 Quixote's foe
9 Butcher's knife
10 Cuba neighbor
11 Up — — (stumped)
12 Acts
13 Punch
20 Grill locale
22 Immeasurable time
24 Most vinegary
26 String instr.
27 Yodeler's answer
28 The San — (NYC bldg.)
30 Nudge forward
32 Rum-soaked cake
34 Hound's track
35 Construct
36 "Oh my!"
39 Finalize (2 wds.)
40 Forum speech
43 Sugarcane harvester
46 Historic trail (2 wds.)
48 Zhou En- —
49 Ranked in tennis
50 Quick raid
51 From Tabriz
52 Toss out
54 Sherlock's lady friend
56 Carnaby Street locale
58 Currier and --
59 Lowest high tide
60 Canine warning
63 That man's

Weekend's answer

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P	S	S	T		I	S	A	K			A	P	E	D

Letters

America, the land of those with strange priorities

At times, historically speaking, Americans would have to be considered weird. They will vehemently defend something despicable or deadly, like slavery or gun ownership. Even now, if Second Amendment rights are threatened, you can feel the heated passion and sense the ensuing violence. However, when they lost their homes, jobs, sons and daughters, there was a woeful whimper.

GLENN HAYES, VIA E-MAIL

People die alongside society

What would make a 17-year-old young man walk up, shoot a sweet little baby in the face and kill him for a few dollars? What has happened in our society that life has become so expendable, so worthless? The fact that the family structure has collapsed is one part of society's problems. Children are not taught how to act, to understand right from wrong behavior or to be respectful of each other. Children need to know shameless behavior is not acceptable. We are not animals in the wild. We need to stop saying everything is OK. A society in deterioration is not OK. We need to stand up and call people out when their behavior is unacceptable. This goes for children and adults. It's not OK to murder anyone — whether they are little children in strollers and schools or adults at the movies. Enough of this madness!

JOHN MCLAUGHLIN, VIA E-MAIL

Watch those backpacks

Hello my fellow train riders. Can you do me and every other passenger on the train a favor? When you have a backpack on, do you think you can be courteous and take it off and put it on the floor or hold it, because I'm tired of getting hit by it — and then you don't even apologize!

AIMEE EGAN, VIA E-MAIL

letters@metro.us

Keep them a brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♈ Aries | March 21 - April 20. Because you're likely to be more motivated to win than your competition, you will be the one coming out ahead. Don't let up.

♉ Taurus | April 21 - May 21. Try to take a recreational break, even though the week is just beginning. It's a healthy way of keeping away unwanted tension.

♊ Gemini | May 22 - June 20. You might not be able to get everything that you want done, but trying to do so should enable you to finalize at least two important matters to your satisfaction.

♋ Cancer | June 21 - July 22. Not only are you extremely curious about everything, you'll also be a quick study. Because there isn't much that will escape your attention, it would be good impart what you learn.

♌ Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. Financial matters could be tricky, but you'll still be able to handle things quite well — mostly because you'll be a dab hand at improvisation.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. It behooves you to keep yourself as busy as possible, because a heavy workload will boost your productivity.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. Keep a low profile today if you find yourself involved in a commercial situation that has lots of competition. It'll help you from tipping your hand on your tactics.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. You'll be more comfortable participating in activities with friends who don't take life too seriously than you would be with pals who don't know how to relax.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. Enormous personal satisfaction will be gained from developments in which you have to use your mental abilities to circumvent tough challenges.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. Usually it isn't advisable to offer unsolicited advice, even to a close friend. Today, however, if you have some constructive thoughts, express yourself.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. One of your greatest attributes is the ability to solve seemingly impossible problems.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. You might have to make a decision between several alternatives that appear to be of equal value.

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Sudoku: Easy

	8		7	4		6		
	7	9				8		
3							7	
	4	2			5			
	5	1	3	6	7	2	8	
			8			5	1	
	2							6
		7				9	4	
		4		3	1		5	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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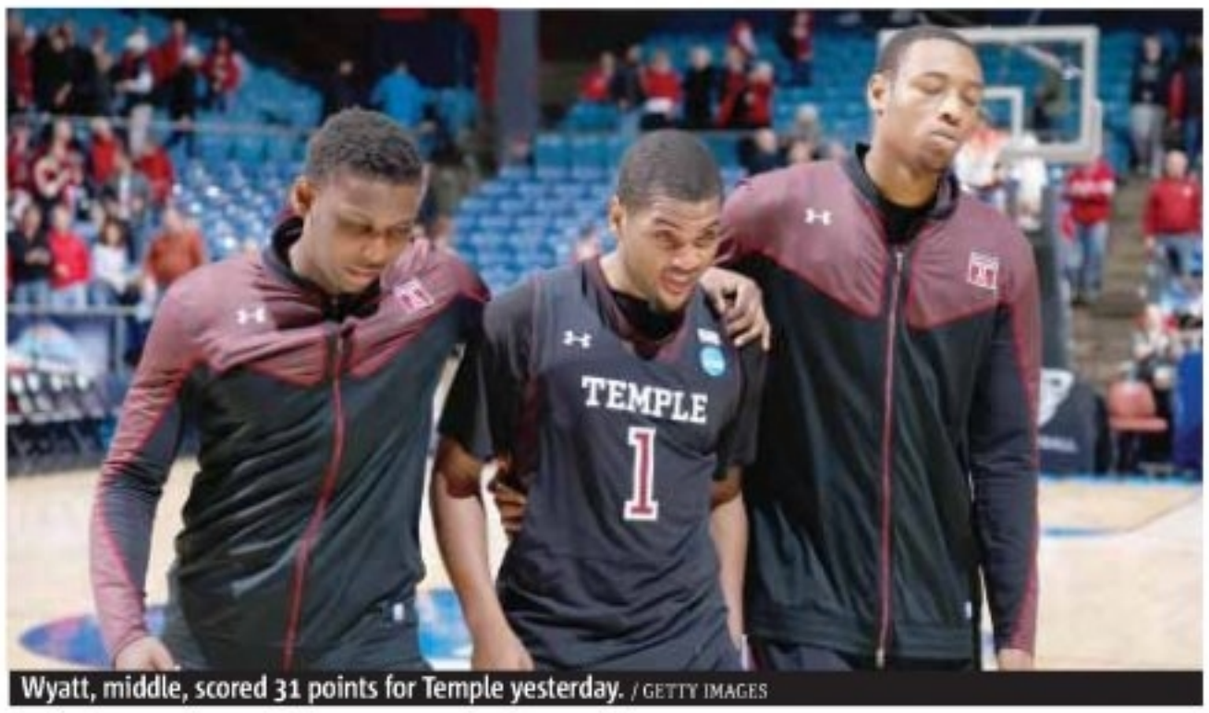
Wyatt, middle, scored 31 points for Temple yesterday. / GETTY IMAGES

Wyatt, Owls almost pull off epic upset

College basketball. Temple runs out of gas against Indiana.

Khalif Wyatt did everything he could, but it wasn't enough to send No. 9 Temple into the Sweet 16.

Wyatt scored 31 points yesterday — 20 in the first half — in a 58-52 defeat to No. 1 Indiana.

"I was just trying to be aggressive and to stay aggressive," said Wyatt on his first-half performance.

"I tried to stay confident and do my best to help the team win," he said, "but unfortunately, my best wasn't enough."

Wyatt shredded the Hoosiers' defense with a variety of moves from a finger roll to a step back three-pointer and even a runner off the backboard.

However, Indiana was able to limit the rest of the Temple starters to just 4 of 29 from the field for 11 points. Despite the rough day shooting from his team, Wyatt was still happy with the effort.

"I'm proud of all my teammates and all my coaches," he said. "We really competed hard and we left it all out there on the floor. I'm really proud of everybody and sad that I have to see it come to an end."

Indiana was led by guard Victor Oladipo who finished with 16 points and eight rebounds. Oladipo drilled a dagger three-pointer with 15 seconds left to give the Hoosiers a 56-52 lead.

"It was just a miscommunication," said Wyatt, of Oladipo's final shot. "He got a real good look at the top of the key and made a big shot."

The Owls led 52-48 with 3:09 left in the second half before a 10-0 Hoosiers run ended the Owls' upset bid.

JEFF MCMENAMIN
letters@metro.us

MLB

Phillies release Betancourt

The Phillies released Yuniesky Betancourt yesterday. There was no room for the 23-year-old infielder with Freddy Galvis and Kevin Frandsen on the roster. GM Ruben Amaro Jr. called it a "very difficult decision." Betancourt batted .447 in 51 at-bats this spring. METRO

Baseball. Cliff Lee's unique approach

When Zach Miner arrived in the Phillies' camp, there was one player's brain he wanted to pick.

"I'm a huge admirer of Cliff Lee," Miner said. "I wanted to get inside his mind."

Chad Durbin broke the news to Miner that he wouldn't uncover much.

"I told him that Cliff just isn't that complicated," Durbin said. "He has a simple approach. You can just watch him and learn what he does."

Lee throws strikes. He doesn't study video.

Is there a chance that Lee will throw the ball out of the zone when the count is in his favor?

"I'm not going to do that," Lee said.

"Despite what happened last season, I'm not going to pitch differently. I don't nibble. I go after hitters. That's the way I do things."

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3 SPORTS

NCAA

Gulf Coast rolls on

No. 15 Florida Gulf Coast shocked the world again by beating No. 7 San Diego State, 81-71, at the Wells Fargo Center. The Eagles pulled off an incredible upset Friday night over No. 2 Georgetown. Next up, Florida's in the Sweet 16.

NBA

Heat's streak alive

Miami beat Charlotte 109-77 last night to extend their winning streak to 26 straight games. LeBron James scored 32 points while dishing out 10 assists.

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Collins remembers growing up in City of Brotherly Love

Basketball. Blue Devils' Collins is the son of Sixers' coach.

The memories come flooding back every time Chris Collins steps off the airplane in Philadelphia. It always takes him back to his childhood. The 38-year-old Collins is the associate head coach for Duke, the No. 2 seed in the NCAA tournament's Midwest region. The Blue Devils were in town this past weekend.

"A ton of memories stick out," Collins told Metro. "Darryl Dawkins [was] sleeping in my house when I was a little kid. The main thing that sticks out are the times after the games, my dad bringing me back to the locker room as a 5-year-old and a 6-year-old, and all those guys, seeing them ice down."

Collins is a leading candidate for the Northwestern job.
/ PAIGE OZARDSKI/METRO

Collins is son of Sixers coach Doug Collins.

"We talk almost every day," Chris said. " I think overall he's done a really good job. He'll keep teaching, watching them grow and hopefully things will be better in the future."

For Chris, the future may bring his own head coaching job. He is reportedly the top candidate at Northwestern.

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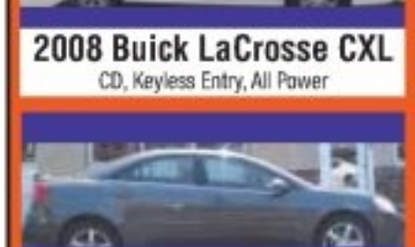
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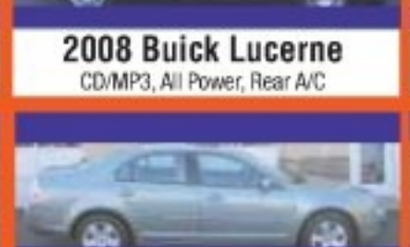
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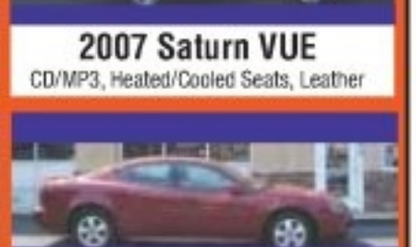
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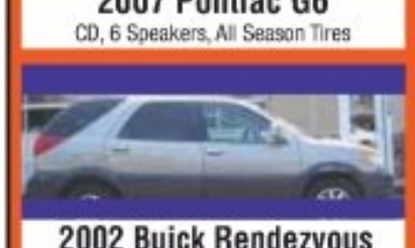
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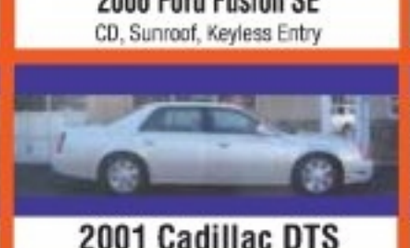
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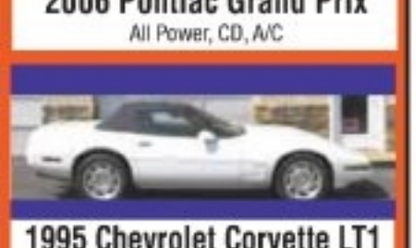
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